



1900s

Now

Year 1 Newsletter

How was school different in the past?



What we are learning about:

Summer 2 2026

Our topic/ theme this half term is: How was school different in the past?

History: In History we will be learning about schools from the past and comparing them to schools today. We will learn to correctly order and date on a timeline, make comparisons between schools in the past and present, looking at similarities and differences between them.

Art and Design: In Art we will be working on our topic Craft and Design: map it out. Throughout this topic we will further demonstrate increased control with a greater range of media, use hands and tools with confidence when cutting, shaping and joining paper, card and malleable materials and talk about art we have seen using some appropriate subject vocabulary.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Let's Perform Together!' Throughout the unit we will refer to the question 'How Does Music Teach Us About Looking After Our Planet?'. Singing and listening will be at the heart of each lesson and we will play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F, F#, G, A.

Computing: In Computing we will be learning ways to present ideas in different ways using Purple Mash.

P.E: In PE we will think about what we can do well and follow simple rules while completing activities to improve static and dynamic balance, agility, reaction and response, and hand-eye coordination.

PSHE: In PSHE we will recap the names of the main parts of the body, learn about all the amazing things that our bodies do and at what point we may have to start being in charge of our actions. We will also discuss how to keep bodies clean and how to stop the spread of illnesses.

R.E: In R.E we will draw on our understanding of what it means to belong, and then relate it to how children are given a sense of belonging in four religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Science: In Science we will be revisiting our learning of materials and extending our understanding of different materials and their properties.

English

Reading: This half term, we will be completing our phonic screening tests. The children have worked extremely hard to prepare for this and we are very proud of them. In our reading practice sessions, the children will continue to grow their confidence reading unfamiliar words and building their bank of tricky words in order to read with fluency. We will also continue to develop our prosody skills, understanding how we adapt or change our voices to match the tone of the text. In addition, securing our comprehension techniques, e.g. looking at the picture or key vocabulary in the text to support our understanding.

Writing: Our first model text this half term is from a book called 'The Bear and the Piano'. The book is about a bear who found a piano in the forest. He practiced every day for years and years. He dreamed of becoming famous and so he travelled to busy cities around the globe to play in large theatres. After a while, he realised that he missed his family. He travelled home to find his friends and family waiting for him to play for them, which he thought was the best audience of all. For this piece of writing, we will aim to secure our use of appropriate adjectives, matching descriptive words to the sounds the musical instruments play. We will also be writing a diary recount and finishing the year with some poetry.

Maths: In Maths this half term, we will first focus on place value to 100, money and time.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths: place value, tens, ones, 0-100, add, subtract, one more, one less, compare, unitising, coins, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2, notes, before, after, days of the week, months of the year, hours, minutes, seconds, time.

English: grapheme phoneme correspondence (GPC), grapheme, phoneme, digraph, trigraph, blend, segment, punctuation, capital letter, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark, joining word, story map, fiction, non-fiction, narrative, description, suffixes, prefixes, adjectives, compound words.

Science: material, property, glass is transparent, rigid, weatherproof, everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard

Topic: Past, timeline, date, different, decade, present, important, similar, modern, living memory, evidence, source, decade, beyond living memory, preferred, Abstract, composition, curator, design, design brief, evaluate, felt, fibre, gallery, imaginary, inspired, landmarks, mosaic, overlap, pattern shape, stained glass, texture, viewfinder, belong, groups, community